

## Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 DPW-01 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 ACDA-19 RSR-01 /135 W  
----- 021605

P R 101712 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 645

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USDEL PARIS

S E C R E T OTTAWA 0574

E. O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OVIP, MARR, PFOR, VS, LA, VN, XC, CA

SUBJECT: VISIT OF EXTAFF MINISTER SHARP TO INDOCHINA

REF: OTTAWA 0568

1. CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER SHARP WILL VISIT  
SAIGON, VIENTIANE AND HANOI 14 TO 17 MARCH ( FULL ITINERARY  
AND LIST OF PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED REFTEL). PURPOSE OF  
THE VISIT IS TO GIVE SHARP AND HIS ENTOURAGE FIRST- HAND  
VIEW OF SITUATION IN INDOCHINA WHICH BOUND HAVE SERIOUS  
BEARING ON GOC DECISION WHETHER OR NOT CANADA WILL CONTINUE  
PARTICIPATE IN ICCS.

2. AT PRESENT GOC IS COMMITTED TO STAY IN ICCS THROUGH  
MAR 29 ( SIXTY DAYS), BY WHICH TIME DECISION WOULD BE MADE.  
IF DECISION MADE TO WITHDRAW CANADA WOULD REMAIN IN ICCS UP  
TO TOTAL OF 90 DAYS TO PROVIDE TIME FOR FINDING REPLACEMENT.

3. GOC DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO CONTINUE IN ICCS  
WILL BE STRONGLY INFLUENCED BY IMPRESSIONS AND COMMENT

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ATTENDANT SHARP VISIT. MAJOR FOCUS WILL BE UPON CANADIAN CONCERN THAT ICCS MAY DEVELOP INTO " FARCE" LIKE THE OLD ICC, AND UPON CURRENT NOTION IN OFFICIALDOM AND PUBLIC ALIKE THAT AS INSTRUMENT TO INSURE VIETNAM PEACE, ICCS IS IN-CONSEQUENTIAL OR INESSENTIAL AND CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IS UNNECESSARY AND EVEN POINTLESS. SHARP STATED RECENTLY ON FLOOR OF HOUSE COMMONS THAT " THE ICCS IS NOT AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT" TO PEACE IN VIETNAM. ANOTHER MAJOR CANADIAN CONCERN IS LEST GOC APPEAR AT SOME POINT TO BE LEFT WITH MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION OF PARIS AGREEMENT AND FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN INDOCHINA. ON ALL SIDES, FROM MEDIA AND INDIVIDUAL CANADIANS, CHARGE IS MADE THAT " THE U. S. WILL PULL OUT AND WE CANADIANS WILL BE LEFT HOLDING THE BAG."

4. AS NOTED REFTEL, SHARP WILL BE ACCCOMPANIED DURING VISIT BY NEW DEMOCRATIC PARTY ( NDP) AND SOCIAL CREDIT PARTY ( SC) MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT. ALTHOUGH THERE EXISTS NO FORMAL COALITION, GOVERNING MINORITY LIBERAL PARTY IS DEPENDENT ON SUPPORT OF NDP FOR SURVIVAL. TO DATE, NDP HAS BACKED LIBERAL GOVERNMENT ON CANADIAN ICCS PARTICIPATION ISSUE. LIBERAL GOVERNMENT WOULD PROBABLY NOT DECIDE IN FAVOR OF CONTINUING PARTICIPATION IN VIETNAM IF NDP OPPOSED THIS MOVE. VIEWS OF NDP REPRESENTATIVE DOUG ROWLAND ( NDP DEFENCE CRITIC) THEREFORE ARE IMPORTANT ELEMENT OF FINAL GOC DECISION.

5. THE NDP HAS BEEN A VOCAL OPPONENT OF U. S. INVOLVEMENT IN VIETNAM AND WOULD BE EXTREMELY SENSITIVE TO ANY CHARGE THAT CANADA ACTS AS A FRONT OR PROXY FOR THE U. S. ON THE ICCS. NDP SPOKESMEN HAVE MADE MUCH OF CIVILIAN DETAINEE ISSUE IN RECENT WEEKS AND ROWLAND CAN THEREFORE BE EXPECTED TO RAISE IT AT SOME POINT IN SAIGON. WHEN ROWLAND RETURNS TO CANADA HE WILL BE IN STRONGEST POSITION TO DEFEND CONTINUED NDP SUPPORT FOR CANADIAN ICCS PARTICIPATION IF HE CAN ARGUE THAT (1) ALL PARTIES TO VIETNAM AGREEMENT EQUALLY AND STRONGLY SUPPORT CONTINUED GOC PARTICIPATION; (2) ICCS PROVIDES GOC WITH SOME DEGREE OF LEVERAGE TO ASSIST IN BRINGING ABOUT SOLUTIONS TO " HUMANITARIAN" CAUSES SUCH AS CIVILIAN DETAINEE ISSUE; AND (3) CANADA IS NOT ACTING AS PROXY FOR THE U. S. ( NDP HAS FREQUENTLY ASKED IF CANADIAN ICCS MEMBERS PROVIDE

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SECRET REPORT TO U. S. THIS HAS BEEN STRONGLY DENIED

BY GOC.)

6. ROWLAND HAS INDICATED DESIRE TO LOOK " BEHIND THE SCENES"  
IN SAIGON, ALTHOUGH HE IS UNCERTAIN IF SCHEDULE WILL ALLOW  
THIS, AND HAS STATED TENTATIVE INTEREST IN PERSONAL BRIEFINGS.  
EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT EXPERTS ( LIKE LEE BRADDOCK AND STEVE  
JOHNSON) BE AVAILABLE FOR BRIEFING ROWLAND IF HE HAS TIME  
AND SO REQUESTS.

JOHNSON

SECRET

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